



Communicator

Summer 2013

Field Day Review

Plus

The Communicator August 1983

How Did We Do in 2013?

The Site

The Gear

The People



SARC Field Day
Then and Now





The Communicator



**SURREY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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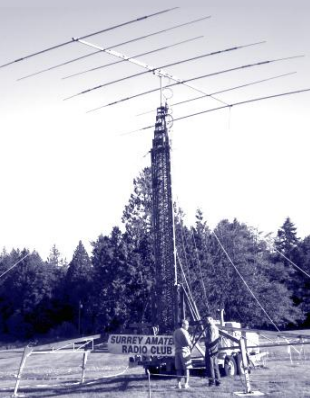
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VIA THE WEB
www.ve7sar.net

The SARC Communicator is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.



Field Day 2013 Edition

This is a special edition of the Communicator dedicated to a review of our recent Field Day efforts and a very special look back to exactly 30 years ago (*page 15*) for the August 1983 Communicator—*Thanks for sharing Kjeld*.

We have contributions from many of the planners and participants and many photos. As in previous years, there is a Field Day 2013 video that will be shown at a future meeting.

Fortunately this proved to be a good weekend weather-wise. We had a few sprinkles just as we started tear-down but we weren't drenched as we were last year during set-up.

From an operating perspective it was a fabulous event and the result was superior to previous SARC-SEPAR efforts. An event this successful doesn't just happen, it takes a large amount of preparation and planning,

and there are too many people to thank individually in this column but special mention to Brett Garrett, VE7GM who took on the position of Chief Planner and completed it in a very thorough and efficient manner. Thank you Brett!

Recognition as well to a couple of corporate sponsors, specifically

- Icom for providing their top-notch radios that permitted us to be even more competitive;
- Vancouver Axle and Frame for going above and beyond in modifications to the yellow antenna trailer; and to
- Super Save for the donation of Field Day porta-potties.

Please support these vendors if you require their services.

~ John Schouten VE7TI
Communicator Editor

Thanks to all our contributing photographers, Field Day 2013 and other SARC photos may be viewed on-line [here](#)

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7OFH Standby	Drew VA7DRW
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Standby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Bill VE7XS
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager ve7czv @ separs.net		

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2013-2014

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SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9

Special Visitors

We receive bonus points in several categories. Among these are points for visits of elected officials and served agencies. Representatives of all three emergency services attended, as did Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts and honorary SARC member, former Surrey Councillor, now MLA, Marvin Hunt, a long-time supporter of SARC and SEPAR.

Right: Surrey RCMP Emergency Planner, Sgt Ron Casey VE7VTA serves Field Day cake to Kjeld VE7GP.

Also attending were Deputy Chief Dan Barnscher of Surrey Fire Services and Gord Kirk VE7GRK of the BC Ambulance Services.



MLA Marvin Hunt receives an overview of our satellite contact efforts.



Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts prepares to fire the air cannon to launch an antenna.

DOWN THE LOG...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs local at the Emergency Management BC PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 local
ABC Country Restaurant at
600 - 7380 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

Announcements & News

SEPARS Monthly Workshop
Third Thursday, 1900-2130 local
14923-64th Ave, next to Firehall
#9, Surrey.

SEPARS Training

Fourth Saturday, 0830 local,
Firehall #1, 88 & 132nd Street,
Surrey

On the Web

ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter

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Photos

[Web Albums](#)



PROCLAMATION

Amateur Radio Week

June 16 - 22, 2013

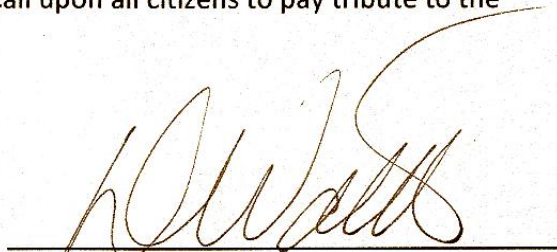
WHEREAS the City of Surrey has several hundred licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing radio communications during emergencies and public service events; and

WHEREAS Amateur Radio operators in the City of Surrey donate their services free of charge to the City, in the interest of the citizens of the City as well as the province of BC and Canada; and

WHEREAS these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency; local, regional or worldwide, and practice their communication skills during the annual Field Day exercise; and

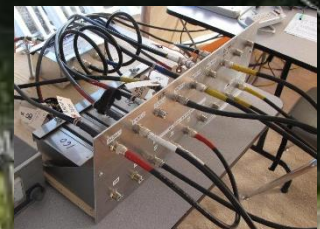
WHEREAS this year's Amateur Radio Field Day will take place on June 22 and 23, 2013;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Dianne L. Watts, do hereby declare June 16 - 22, 2013 as "Amateur Radio Week" in the City of Surrey, in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our City.



Mayor Dianne L. Watts
City of Surrey

The Gear...





Field Day Review:

Brett Garrett VE7GM

Our Goal and Our Competition

Field Day is many things, and different ham radio groups around the Lower Mainland participate in different ways. Sponsored and organised by the ARRL, Field Day includes aspects of an Emergency Preparedness exercise, a PR Event for ham radio, a contest, a chance to operate portable in a big way, and an excuse to party with other hams.

ARRL assigns points for the many aspects of participation. Points are assigned for making contacts (with double points for CW, RTTY or PSK31 modes), passing formal NTS messages, offering educational activities, getting non-hams and inactive hams on the air, holding the event in a public location, getting media attention, using non-utility power, attracting visits from elected officials or representatives of served agencies, etc.

Last year the combined team of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club, the Surrey Emergency Program Amateur Radio Society, and the Langley Amateur Radio Association were very successful in our Field Day, using call sign VE7LSY. Our total number of points was 5536 which resulted from 1227 radio contacts (the actual calculation of points is a bit complex, and points from contacts are boosted by “bonus points”). This score placed us first in British Columbia, followed by VE7SCC (Coquitlam/Burnaby/New West ARCs) with 4418 points from 1229 radio contacts.

In our category (“3A”, indicating a club station with three HF transmitters) the leading station in Canada was VE3HB (Oakville ARC) with 6442 points from 1540 radio contacts. The second highest station in category 3A in Canada? VE7LSY—us! With this history, for the 2013 Field Day we set a goal of pushing past our (admittedly tough) competition to win not just #1 in BC, but #1 in Canada in our 3A category. We were going for the gold.

Unfortunately, we learned a few months before Field Day that our Langley ARA team members from last year decided that they would not be joining SARC and SEPARS again this year. So we were down in strength and talent. Even doing as well as last year would be tough. And we were determined to do better.

We knew competition would be tough. We were hearing rumours that the VE7SCC team was feeling a bit bloodied after last year. They were used to being #1 in BC, having beaten us handily the year before (with a score of 4648 based on 1374 contacts, vs. our 3720 points based on 779 contacts), and the year before that. Word was they were going to put us back in our place. And we had no illusions that the Oakville ARC (VE3HB) was going to rest on their laurels. But we were determined to win both BC and 3A in Canada!

Did we succeed? We won’t know officially for a few weeks yet, but we did significantly better, this time using the SARC call VE7SAR.

Bonus Points

Bonus points form an important part of the total score, and are essential to winning. In 2012 we obtained 1500 bonus points, which were as valuable as 750 SSB contacts. Some of the bonus points are easy to obtain, while others are harder. How did we do this year?

Public Location

Again this year, with the help of Deputy Chief Dan Barnscher of Surrey Fire Service, we were fortunate enough to get permission to use the 20th Avenue and Highway 15 location that worked so well for us last year. This location easily qualified as “public place”, as required by the ARRL rules for this bonus, and gained us 100 points.



Emergency Power

Again this year we used two gasoline powered generators from SEPARS to provide our electricity. This qualified us for the 100 bonus points that ARRL allows when all transmitters are powered by non-commercial power.

Media Publicity

ARRL allows 100 bonus points for “attempting to obtain publicity from the local media”. Kelvin VA7KPH issued a press release to local media outlets, which qualified us for these points.

Public Information Table



ARRL allows 100 bonus points for having a public information table at the Field Day site. “The purpose is to make appropriate handouts and information available to the visiting public at

the site.” We had a Public Information Table that Kelvin VA7KPH managed during the event, which qualified us for these points.

Message Origination to Station Manager

ARRL allows 100 bonus points for “for origination of a National Traffic System (NTS) style formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site.”

Peter VE7PGX took on management of all our messaging bonus points, and saw to it we initiated the message required to earn these points.



Message Handling

ARRL allows 10 bonus points for “each formal NTS style originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages).” Here we weren’t able to get all the available points. We were only able to exchange one formal message (in addition to the message to the Section Manager) to earn 10 points.

Finding a way to exchange the full ten NTS messages will help us increase our score for Message Handling next year.

Satellite Ops

ARRL allows 100 bonus points for “successfully completing at least one QSO via an amateur radio satellite during the Field Day period.”

This was a tough one. Nell VA7NEW and Ralph VA7CNR did an outstanding job of preparing a display for Satellite communications, and John VE7TI pitched in to help in a big way. But unfortunately, satellite availability proved to be difficult. Satellites must pass overhead during the Field Day operating period and, with the loss of 3 satellites recently that were reachable with a handheld, there weren’t a lot of satellites for us to choose from other than more complex HF ‘birds’. We would have to catch an elusive satellite at a time when it wasn’t already “occupied”, and find someone else who was trying to find a contact at the same time using the same satellite. In the end, however, perseverance paid off. John snagged the satellite contact we needed, and we got the 100 points!



Alternate Power

ARRL allows 100 bonus points for “making a minimum of five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or petroleum driven generator.” ARRL accepts as alternate energy source of power things like solar, wind, methane, water, and batteries “charged by natural means (not dry cells).”

Two of the HF radios were powered by 12 V batteries being charged from our gasoline generators. Brett VE7GM connected his solar panel and “charge controller” up to the battery powering one of these radios in place of the



charger powered by the generator, while Keenan VE7XEN continued to make SSB contacts. This meant the radio was running on a battery “charged by natural means (not dry cells)”, which qualified us for these points.

W1AW Bulletin

The ARRL allows 100 bonus points for “copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH) during its operating schedule during the Field Day weekend”.

Thanks to the efforts of both Fred VE7IO and John VA7XB, who independently copied the bulletin for us, we

qualified for these bonus points. (We're pretty confident we got the message correct, since Fred and John both got the same text!)

Educational Activity

The ARRL allows 100 bonus points for including "a specific educational-related activity". We had an activity lined up, but weren't able to document anyone actually taking advantage of it.

We were saved here, however, by the impromptu actions of Al VE7CDC, who (along with many other contributions leading up to and during the Field Day weekend) picked up the SARC "tennis ball air cannon" (used to launch ropes over tree limbs to put up wire antennas) and gave an educational session to a variety of people, including Surrey's Mayor Dianne Watts (*see page 3*). We were fortunate that one of our roving photographers caught pictures of Al's session, including one showing Mayor Watts trying the air cannon for herself as Al gives her instruction. ARRL rules require "participation" by the trainee in the educational activity, and the photo demonstrates just what we needed for these bonus points!

Site Visitation by an elected governmental official

The ARRL allows 100 bonus points for having our Field Day site visited by an elected government official as the result of an invitation issued by our group. Kelvin VA7KPH and John VA7XB had issued an invitation to Marvin Hunt, honorary SARC member, Surrey councillor, and newly elected MLA (*see page 3*).

In addition, John VA7XB contacted SARC member Brian Watts VE7EWB and suggested he and his YL, Mayor Dianne Watts, come by for a visit.

Both invitations paid off, we got the photos, and, thanks to the support of our visitors, were able to claim the points!

Site Visitation by a representative of an agency

The ARRL allows 100 bonus points for having our Field Day site "visited by a representative of an agency served by ARES in your local community (American Red Cross, Salvation Army, local Emergency Management, law enforcement, etc.) as the result of an invitation issued by your group."

Here we were again very lucky, as an invitation to SEPARS member (and Director) Surrey RCMP Sgt. Ron Casey VE7VTA paid off when he turned up in his bright red serge, looking very much the image of the Canadian Mountie!



Kelvin VA7KPH had also invited Deputy Chief Dan Barnscher of Surrey Fire Service, who is responsible for the Surrey Emergency Program emergency planning, and is the official sponsor of SEPAR. Dan again showed his support for our team by turning up for a visit and posing for the photographs we need for documentation.

Thanks to Ron & Dan, we easily qualified for these bonus points.

Youth Participation

The ARRL allows a 20 point bonus (to a maximum of 100) "for each participant age 18 or younger at your Field Day operation that completes at least one QSO."

With the long string of successes above, the reader could be forgiven for expecting yet one more. Unfortunately, here we struck out.

In spite of Gord Kirk VE7GRK bringing his son, and Dixie VA7DIX bringing her two grandsons, none were able (through no fault of the participants) to make the required contacts.

Another chance for us to improve next year.

Web Submission

The ARRL allows a 50 point bonus to Field Day teams that submit their Field Day entry via a specified web site. Thanks to the considerable efforts of Jim VE7FO, ably assisted by Fred VE7IO, our submission went in as required and on time (a much larger and more-complex task than it might sound).

So we obtained these, final, bonus points.

Our total Bonus Points: 1360





GOTA (Get On The Air)

Jinty Reid VA7JMR

“To GOTA or not to GOTA, that is the question”

(As Shakespeare might have said)

When Brett asked me to be in charge of manning the GOTA station for Field Day I did not know whether to book a vacation abroad or just run for my life!

I had never been involved in field Day before so it would be my first time. As many of you may or may not know my brain is not wired for the technical aspects of ham radio. My first reaction after that was to just say noooooo, but as usual I volunteered, if I may use that term loosely.

There were the coaches to organize to cover shifts for GOTA, and to try and give each coach some operators to coach on each shift where possible, allowing for members of the public opportunities to learn about ham radio by using the radio and making their own contacts. I had to make sure that coaches were experienced with GOTA and that operators met the criteria under the rules to participate on GOTA. Then making sure that the rules, band information, crib sheet, and printed schedule were all at hand in a folder/clipboard and...and ...and ...HELP!

It was decided to use hard copy logging sheets rather than N1MM which proved to be much simpler for coaches and operators. I tried to keep the shifts short for the coaches so that it would not be such a big commitment. Al Neufeld was there for support. Kjeld, Anton, John Schouten and Gordon Kirk all agreed to be coaches.

The week before Field Day panic started to set in, “not sure about this”. The day of the event I took the first shift and I had 8 operators in total. On the first band we used we could not reach any contacts and after a reasonable amount of time I contacted Jim Smith our Station Manager and he changed us to 10 meter band but though we roamed through all the frequencies during my shift we were unable to find a contact. To ensure it was a fun and a successful experience for the operators and that they could get their certificates Al Neufeld acted as the contact by sitting in his van and returning our calls. This allowed the operators to complete the communication process.



Was the experience harder or easier than I thought? Well, mostly it was a lot easier than in my nightmares! Did I find it exhausting, intimidating, exhilarating or fun? I found the pre-event stuff somewhat tiring but that was because I was a bit nervous and of fear of the unknown. However, on the actual day I enjoyed working with the operators, by in large, and especially the first time ones which was satisfying.

My biggest frustration was not being able to find contacts throughout my shift and then to find out much later that there had been a problem with the setting up of the antennas which had caused this. What was great was the willingness of my fellow hams to accept the position of coaches and commit their time, as well as the support I received from hams in general. What makes being a ham satisfying is the quality of other hams and their supportiveness, sense of humour and knowledge levels.

Would I do it again next year....all I can say is I am looking at some holiday cruises and buying new and better running shoes ha ha!!

Some observations on Field Day...



It's my ever first participation in field day, I was and still am excited about it. The type of contact is RTTY, which suits me, something beyond my capability. At the beginning of my shift I was a bit nervous as although we had gone through some training, it had been a while

since the last one. But after a few contacts I quickly calmed down and feel much comfortable with it. Most of the contacts are pretty straightforward - signal strength seemed to be pretty good as the software decoded most of the message well. Confusion was actually from myself - during a contact with someone in Ontario, I received region as ONE and I instinctively interpreted it as one.

One??? What's that for? Asked again and still getting the response of the same ONE. Then I suddenly realized it should be just the region code so without further ado I sent the Thanks message. Later I looked it up and sure enough it's Ontario East or something like that. There was another confusion probably from the 0 and O (can't remember clearly) that prevented me from logging the contact and finally I had to get Jim's help to correct the info.

During my shift RTTY was a bit quiet, and seemed to be a trial on one's patience and endurance. But because it was quiet you got excited by every contact which occurred. Anyway, it was an unforgettable day.

Looking forward to next year I hope I can get into some CW activity ☺. It seemed that we had some trouble getting an Internet connection via the microwave channel this year, if I can help to provide some backup solution I am glad to do that.

~ Sean VA7CHX



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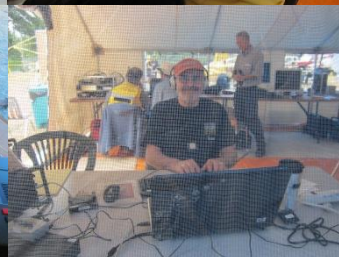
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**The
People**





Field Day... Then and Now

Al Neufeld VE7CDC

The anticipation, the adventure, the work! ...the results, ...and always the stories and memories!

Field Day is many things to many people! To some it's a bit of a summer picnic, to others it is the keen anticipation of the contest, and to the rest it's something in between. There is something for everyone!

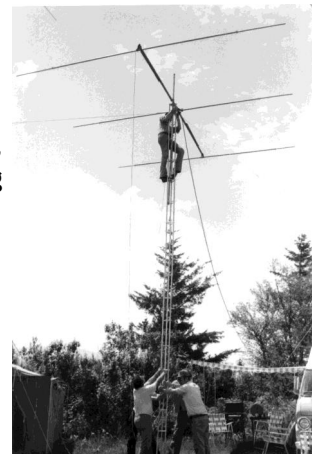
What seems like years ago, just after I got my amateur licence, the talk at the SARC monthly winter meetings was all about Field Day.... Where, how, who would do this and that? My excitement about participating 'for real' in this adventure was huge! At that time, most of our group was of an age where our willingness to overcome new obstacles was boundless. We had access to a challenging site just a few miles east of Abbotsford called McKee Mtn. (for ease of pronunciation, or whatever, this obviously soon became known as 'Monkey Mountain!') There was a repeater site up there that was accessible by a 4-wheel drive road. So, after some discussion, which lasted only as long as it took to count the number of 4x4's available to members, a spring reconnaissance patrol was deemed necessary, and the convoy sallied forth.

After reaching the bottom of the road, it took only(!) a further 45 minutes to negotiate the next half-mile to the top. Wow... what a view! But even better, there were already some poles to hang antennas from, and enough flat area to park several vehicles and a mobile antenna tower near the top. There was even a tired log repeater shack with unsecured doors and in the adjacent clear area

there was space for several operating tents. We had our Field Day site!

Over the following few months the planning of the 'The Expedition' took place. The difficulties in reaching the site, organizing the gear and supplies, along with the plans for dragging all that 'stuff' up the hill created a sense of adventure that only served to enhance the level of anticipation for the coming Field Day!

When the actual day arrived we ventured forth from Surrey, well before the sun rose, like Stillwell's Army setting out to cross the Burma Road over the Hump in WW2! We thrashed our way to the top of the hill in a cloud of dust and clutch smoke, and then amid much fun and laughter erected antennas, tower, tents, and installed the equipment required for a 3A station. You see, in those days the rules stated that for an 'A' level station you only had 3 (or was it 4?) hours before the 11am contest start time to begin station assembly! It was always organized chaos bordering on a gong show! In other words, we had a great time! As a bonus, we always scored near the top of our class!



Who needs a safety belt? The awning doubles as a bet.



This guy doesn't sleep in tents! He brought his own hotel room! Guess who!



The 1979 gourmet kitchen/buffet! The food tasted GREAT up there!



1979: Cary Miller CFC (L) and Doug Moore CBM (R), SARC's first President, both now SKs.

The actual legendary events of the several years of Field Days that took place up on that knobby hill might be the subject of a future *expose*... if truth can be adequately separated from fiction! The details include generators, grass(?) grubs, grumps, gramps, guys, gals, guffaws, gallons (of gas and coffee), and gastronomic delights that truly defied description!

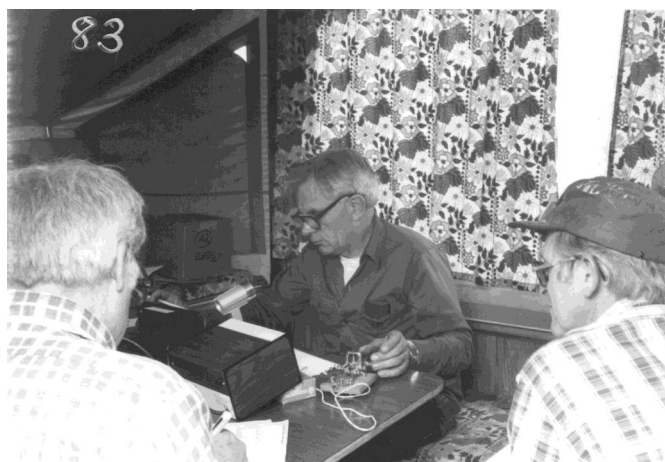
For real life work reasons, my involvement in work diminished my involvement in amateur radio, and the annual Field Days. Meanwhile, SARC progressed through several different versions of the annual Field Day that featured various venues and differing motivations for participating in the event. However, as fate would have it, I was able to be involved in some of the preparation for this year's event and be part of the team during the event.

So, has the SARC Field Day (FD) changed? Yes and No!

Preparation for FD 2013 began soon after the New Year as always, even though some considerations began well before that. There is always a core of people who look ahead and gather together to evaluate and delegate the many tasks that need to be included to make a successful event. This has been how it happened before, and it happened again. The excitement, the desire to be competitive and do well in the event was still there. The anticipation of the event, the occasional discouragement at the appearance of some obstacle, and the relief at overcoming that challenge was also still there. The feeling of achievement at the conclusion of the event was still there. The camaraderie of those participating in the event was there, and will continue into the future as a result of being there! No changes there.

What has changed? Well, it's more subtle than that.... And yet, maybe not! Of course the stories of the past FD's are

always better! But this FD will also have its stories one day. The preparations for a true Emergency Communications station are in principle still the same, - if you are an 'A' category station - to provide and demonstrate self-sufficient reliable communications using only what you have with you on site with no reliance on the outside locale that may have been devastated by some event or other.



Would you believe? This guy, Mike Holley logs with his right hand while zapping CW with his left hand... True!

But, more specifically, the objective (granted, not the only one) we have as a group is the opportunity to provide, when needed, significant public service communications under challenging disaster conditions upon short notice. In this regard, the SARC FD of 2013 was a clear demonstration of success in practice of this objective! And the bonus is that it was conducted from an *in-community Surrey site* that has all the attributes of a



Al Neufeld demonstrates the antenna launcher to City of Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts and her husband Brian.

high-ground location offering likely survival in a natural disaster, along with being situated where VHF/UHF and HF communications can be conducted both to within the community (VHF/UHF), and to outside the area (HF/BCWARN). Not all previous FD's were conducted with that objective in mind. Sure, the others were fun, and the public occasionally came, and occasionally a new ham was the result! But this Year's FD rolled almost all of that into one event. This was realistic practice for 'the real thing'!

At FD 2013 I saw teamwork, laughter, concentration, frustration, common sense, fatigue, technical skills, friendship, and success! The fondly-remembered FD of 'Monkey Mountain' included the adventure of traversing a 'Burma Road' to achieve success in a difficult environment!... Great Fun! I'd do that one again in a heartbeat!! Maybe it was more adventuresome than FD 2013. But FD 2013 was realistic preparation in a realistic location for a circumstance that we all hope will never be needed. Somehow, I'd have difficulty in saying that's any less satisfying than the storied memories!

Some observations on Field Day...

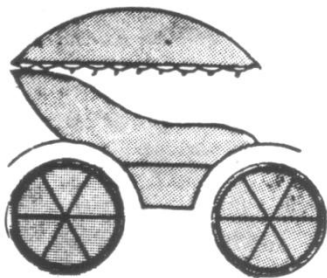


I have participated in Field Day a number of times as an individual station (at home or at a cottage) but 2013 was the first time that I participated in a multi-op club station. I enjoyed the experience thoroughly having been present for the setup - and to see just how all the carefully planned components went together including the raising of the big beam on the club trailer-mast. I operated a shift on RTTY which was very slow - not many stations using RTTY - and I might have had better results working PSK or SSB. But I did make close to 100 Qs - working all over North America. I am looking forward to participating again next year. My compliments to the organizing team - particularly to Brett Garrett, John Brodie, Fred Orsetti and all the others who made this such a professional presence on-air and off-air.

~ John VE7AXU

Sponsoring SARC & SEPAR's portable toilets for Field Day





SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMUNICATOR (VE7SAR)

P.O. Box 542, Surrey, B.C. V4T 5B7

Volume No. 7

August 1983

Issue No. 6



Mike VE7CLE

Carey VE7CFC

FIELD DAY 1983

Field Day 1983 VE7SAR style was as in past years, a resounding first class event which ran like a well oiled machine.

In addition to the die hard old (as in Surrey ARC Field Days Hams) we did have some new operating blood to mention one in particular Ken Clarke. Ken held the fort for the 80 meters C.W. slot for many hours. A most commendable effort considering the very short time he has had his Ham ticket. Good show Ken, hope to see you next year.

While we are on the subject of mentioning Field Day people the author of this "blurb" can always be assured that Alvin VE7CDC will have a new twist to "colour your Field Day". This year was no exception.

The diary of events went something like this:

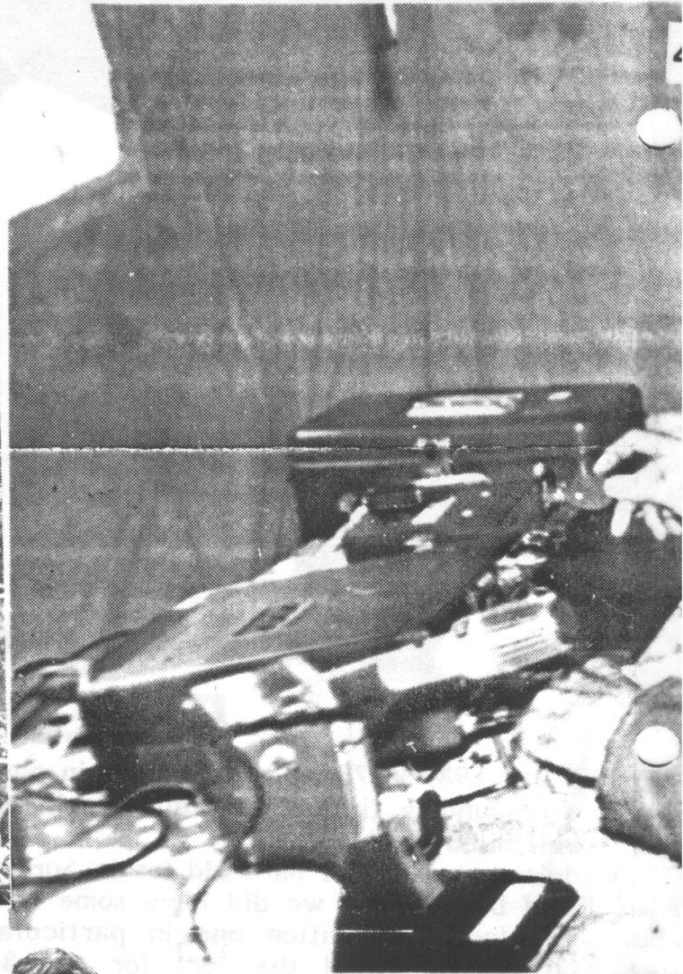
Two weekends prior to Field Day a group of field day regulars, i.e. Jim VE7 CSJ, Fred VE7CJG and of course Alvin trucked up the

mountain road with the intentions of removing a tree stump that had blocked the road from a winter storm. On reaching the base of the hill we were confronted by a log skidder coming down the hill. As Alvin was driving the lead truck he did the asking of what was the skidder doing on OUR road, especially two Field Day!! We learned some good news and some bad news. The operator had pushed the tree stump off to the side of the road. The bad news was he had knocked down the two commercial antenna wood poles which we use to support our 75/40 Mtr dipoles. He (the operator) had been authorized by the site user i.e. Dept. of Lands and Forests to remove the poles.

On reaching the site we discovered one of the poles (the longest) laying in the grass just below the hill top.

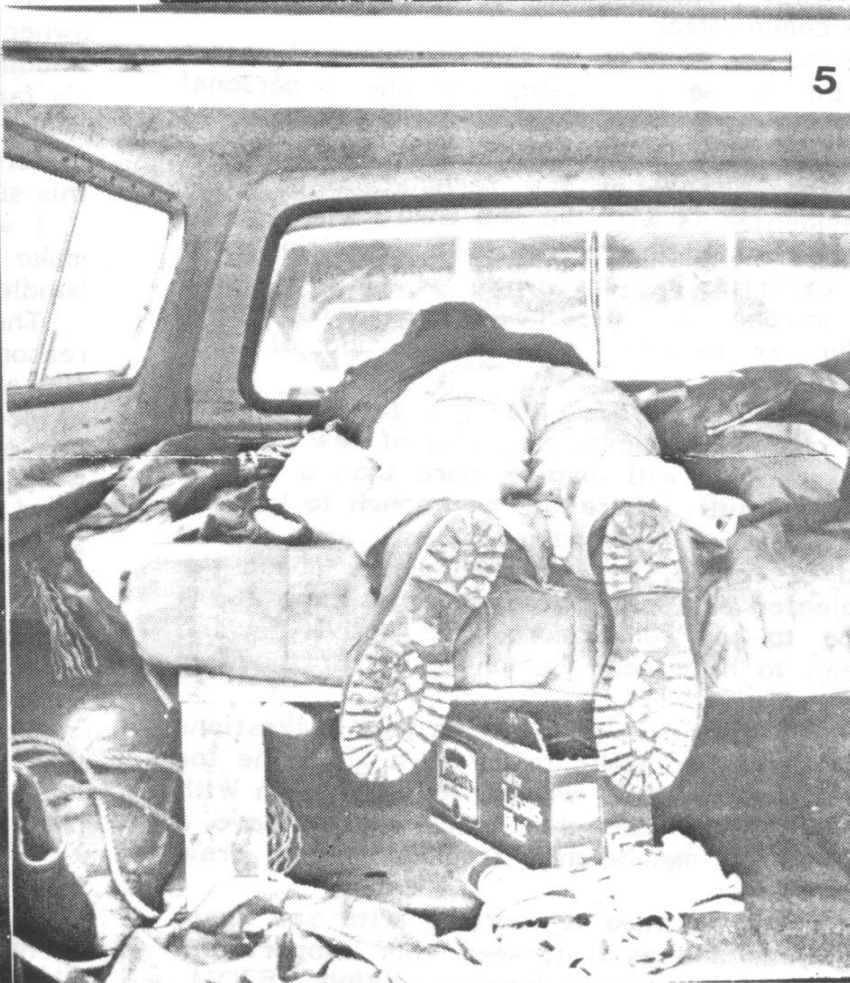
After completing what we originally set out to do, i.e. clean off the site area of the

continued on back page



SOME OF THE FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES

(1) Location of the SAR Club campsite, top of Monkey Mountain
 (2) Lou VE7FGJ supplied shuttle service to and from the top of the mountain
 (3) VE7CDC, Chief Engineer, power supply for the camp
 (4) Brian VE7EJ King of Continuous Wave busy at the key
 (5) Jim taking a nap on his off hours
 (6) The camp kitchen was well-equipped including a coffee maker. Lou VE7FGJ helping himself to a cup of coffee in between trips, while in picture
 (7) Larry VE7EYO (lt.) and Al VE7CDC are having a break in the kitchen lounge
 (8) Mike VE7AVM (rt.) with recorder Larry VE7EYO are busy piling up contacts on CW
 (9) Ralph VE7OM (rt.) was also seen busy with recorder Kjeld VE7CJR (10) Mike VE7CLE (rt.) (a familiar call often can be heard on Sundays at 0400 GMT on 28.675 Mhz. SAR Club Net) with recorder Cary VE7CFC.



Report From The President

I would like to welcome all of you for the 1983-84 season of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club. As President again this year, I know that a lot is expected of myself and the Executive to provide an interesting agenda for the club this year. We will, with your help, try to do just that.

This year, the executive has changed with the departure of Ike, VE7BJH and Carl, VE7CLC and the addition of Mike, VE7CLE as Treasurer, and Bill, VE7EZF as Secretary. I would like to wish Ike and Carl all the best and encourage their continued participation in the Club. The new executive will meet prior to the first meeting to work out some plans for the coming year.

On the subject of the executive, I regret to inform the membership that due to personal commitments, Jim, VE7CSJ is unable to continue his activity with us this year. He has, therefore, tendered his resignation as Vice President. As with Ike and Carl I wish Jim all the best, and look forward to benefiting from his expertise in many areas. I wonder if there is anyone in the membership who would volunteer to step into the position of Vice President for this year?

I look forward to having a good year with the club. I anticipate a number of new projects that perhaps will involve more than a few of us. Hopefully, there will be enough to keep us going, particularly community assistance events and of course, we may hear more about the projected amateur participation at Expo 86. I hope to see some more PEP activity which seems to have been taken out of our thoughts of late.

The Executive will rely on your suggestions and support to make this year a good one for the Surrey Club. I would hope that even with our increased dues this year, we will have a good solid membership from which to draw upon.

I look forward to working with you again this year and as last, seek your support and encouragement. Best 73 Ralph, VE7OM

DOC HAM RADIO EXAMS

There will be one more examination based on old syllabus on October 19th. The new TRC24 does not take effect until February 1st, 1984 where the MORSE CODE sending test will be re-instated. Well, I guess there will a full house on the 19th. ?

FLEA MARKET

Keep an ear open for Fall Electronic Flea Market coming in October. Take stock of all those goodies that you think served out your needs, someone else might just want it?

Same time on Sunday and the same QTH but the date hasn't been decided yet.

FIELD DAY 1983 from page one

remains of the old VHF radio rpt'r buildings, it was decided to leave.

Now, Alvin decided that as the ex radio pole was "just laying in the grass" why not break out the chain saws and reduce one 80 ft. pole to 4 ft. lengths for future reduction to fire logs.

Half an hour later the poles was neatly loaded on Alvin's large H.D. utility trailer

We had almost reached the bottom of the hill when who should be coming up, you guessed it, the same log skidder we met early in the day. This time he did not pull over to one side after noting Alvin had one of, quote, nice long poles cut up into neat 4 ft. lengths.

We were duly informed by the alleged pole owner that he had bought them and was skidding these along with the power poles to his farm to make a silo.

To the average every day ham who is born to scrounge even if only a little to get out of this situation was all but impossible.

I was about to suggest we all chip in and make restitution by offering payment for the bundle of very short poles (4ft.long).

Then Alvin to the diplomatic rescue with reasons that would rate 100 on a scale of 1 to 100 and should be entered in the Guinness book of records at the worlds best "snow job" he conveyed log skidder operator that we "Hams" were totally blameless in every aspect of the word. Talk about sweat innocence Alvin's speech was a classic to be hold. You will go far in this world Alvin!!

Well thats it for 1983 Field day , except to tell you we raked up a total score of 4,632 points. This will put us in very good standing in the 3A class.

Look for the Official Results in November QST. 73's Mike VE7AVM

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS

Your membership renewal application are enclosed with this issue of the news letter. Please fill out the form clearly complete with postal code, as this will be used for your mailing address. The old mailing list will again be used for September issue of the Communicator, but for October issue only those who have a paid up membership will be included in the Roster or mailing list.

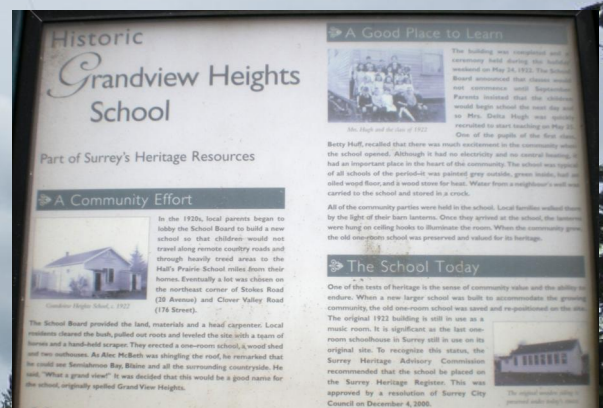
NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 12, 1983 at 7:30 P.M. in Guildford Park Secondary Community School, Room 108, 14577-106A Avenue, Surrey, B.C. Please make every effort to attend our first meeting with new executive.

AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES

Max Green VE7DZ will again conduct amateur classes sometimes in September. Dates will be announced later.

The Site





The Contest Contender

Jim Smith VE7FO

FD2013 RESULTS

In 2011 I was recruited as a Field Day Op by John, VE7TI, and Fred, VE7IO, both of whom I had known for some years. The bait dangled in front of me was that the SARC, SEPAR and Langley Clubs were going all out to be #1 in Canada in the 3A Category. "My kind of folks," I said to myself and accepted the invitation.

Well, the site was great and the antennas were great but there weren't enough experienced contest style operators to achieve the goal. Still, we did come third.

I enjoyed the experience and there was obviously a lot of enthusiasm for FD on the part of the members so I joined SARC and proposed to the Exec a plan for doubling our points in 2012. In essence, the plan was to provide hands-on contest operator training throughout the year leading up to FD2012.

The plan was accepted and VE7IO, VA7XB and myself set to work. The first issue was we didn't have a suitable location. Fred solved that one in style by volunteering the use of his station.

Next was recruiting trainees. While we weren't overwhelmed by volunteers we did get enough to make our efforts worth while.

There were a number of formal training sessions timed to coincide with major contests so our ops would have plenty of people to work and lots of practice dealing with QRM and the generally fast pace of contest operation. Most were held at VE7IO and some at VA7XB.

Did it work?

Well, we upped our score by about 50%. Not 100% but enough to move up from third place in Canada to second.

That was pretty encouraging so, although the training program was a lot of time consuming work, we decided to do it again.

It helped that Brett, VE7GM, joined the training crew. It also helped that much of our training material could be used again without too many changes. Brett came up with the idea of a low stress intro to contesting called GYFW or "Get Your Feet Wet". The idea here was to get people to make a few contest QSOs without any pressure to be quick about it and without any requirement that the op puts in some specified amount of time. If, after 15 minutes or so, the op decided that this wasn't an interesting way to spend his time then that was that, no harm - no foul. If she decided that this was fun and worth developing the needed skills she either attended more GYFW sessions or moved on into the formal training program.

Along the way, VE7IO upgraded his station to allow two operators to make contacts at the same time (but on different bands) by means of appropriate filters.

This being the second year of training for several of the ops, the VE7IO station was starting to post competitive scores resulting in a number of awards in various contests.

Before each session I would post a notice on the internet that we would be on the air with a number of trainees and to please be patient with them. This has resulted in a surprisingly high level of awareness of our program within the world-wide contesting community.



So, how did we do in FD2013 ?

We did VERY well.

SCORE BREAKDOWNS FOR 2013

We get 2 points for each CW QSO, 2 for each RTTY QSO and 1 for each Phone QSO.

BAND	CW QSOs	Digi QSOs	Phone QSOs	QSO Points
80m	27	13	63	143
40m	210	46	176	688
20m	796	0	90	1682
15m	125	45	73	413
10m	0	0	0	0
6m	0	0	7	7
2m	0	0	11	11
70cm	0	0	0	0
GOTA	0	0	6	6
Sat	0	0	1	1

Total: CW Digi Ph QSO Points
1158 104 427 2951 x 2 for low power = 5902

YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISONS

	2010	2011	2012	2013
OUR QSO POINTS				5902
OUR BONUS POINTS				1360
OUR SCORE	3620	3720	5536	7262*

*Almost 2X our 2011 score

ALL CANADA	2010	2011	2012	2013
#1 VE SCORE	7626	4648	6442	7262?
#1 VE CALL	VE3CJ	VE7SCC	VE3HB	VE7SAR?
#2 VE SCORE	5340	3976	5536	?
#2 VE CALL	VE7SCC	VE3RL	VE7LSY	?
#3 VE SCORE	3620	3720	4418	?
#3 VE CALL	VE7LSY	VE7LSY	VE7SCC	?

So, it didn't take one year to double our score, it took two. However, the op training can't take all the credit. We were very fortunate to have Mike, VE7ACN, a world class all mode operator, with us for both years.

Some years ago I decided that my mission for the rest of my life is to make more contesters. (I started with, "Bring about world peace" but wanted something where my progress could be measureable.) I have found working with SARC/SEPAR to achieve the results we're getting to be personally very gratifying. However, none of this would have been possible without the huge amount of work which VE7IO, VE7GM and VA7XB have also put into this, as well as the overall support of the members.

We won't know whether or not we made #1 VE until the results come out in a few months. However, we beat last year's winning score by about 12% so I think we have a pretty good chance.

I checked the ARRL web site to see if I could find the 3A Canadian record score but that info isn't available. I was able to go back as far as 2002. The top three Canadian 3A scores since 2001 were:

VE3CJ 2010 7,626

VE5NN 2002 7,042

VE5NN 2004 6,560

So we missed setting the "modern" record by 365 points. Not too shabby.

STATION MANAGER

This is the second year when we have had a Station Manager (SM) for every shift.

The SMs job is to monitor the rate at which the ops are generating QSOs, monitor our signal strength in various parts of the US as reported by the spotting network and monitor the activity on the various bands. They are to use this info to direct the ops to change bands and/or modes as required to improve the rate of QSO formation.

Well, that was the plan. The actual was somewhat different as the SMs received only one brief training session so really didn't have the skills to do their assigned task as well as one would have hoped. That will have been fixed by the time 2014 rolls around.

TOOLS

We use a number of tools during FD to monitor how we're doing and to help us decide which bands and modes we should be on at any given time.

Propagation Predictions

Before FD we generate propagation predictions for a number of areas in the US. These take into account the radiation patterns of the antennas which we have decided to use.

From this we generate an operator schedule, putting the most experienced ops on the high rate bands with an emphasis on CW as CW QSO's count two points as opposed to Phone's one point.

We run HamCAP to provide predictions during FD. However, we tend to pay more attention to what the spots are telling us (when we have them). It does alert us to possible band openings, though.

Progress Graphs

One of the tools we use for measuring progress during the event is a software program called Athena (*see page 20*). It draws a graph (the red line) showing number of QSOs made vs time. See Figure 1 - QSOs. The right axis shows number of QSOs.

The vertical bars show the total number of QSOs made during each hour (Zulu time) as indicated on the left axis.

The black line shows the results from last year.

It will also show points instead of QSOs. See Figure 2 - POINTS.

These graphs are updated every two minutes.

Although not shown here it will display the same info for individual bands as well as the contribution made by each op.

Spots

Spot monitoring is VERY important as it can tell you how good your signals are in various parts of the US. If they're poor on a particular band the SM makes adjustments, such as reorienting or switching the antenna or switching bands.

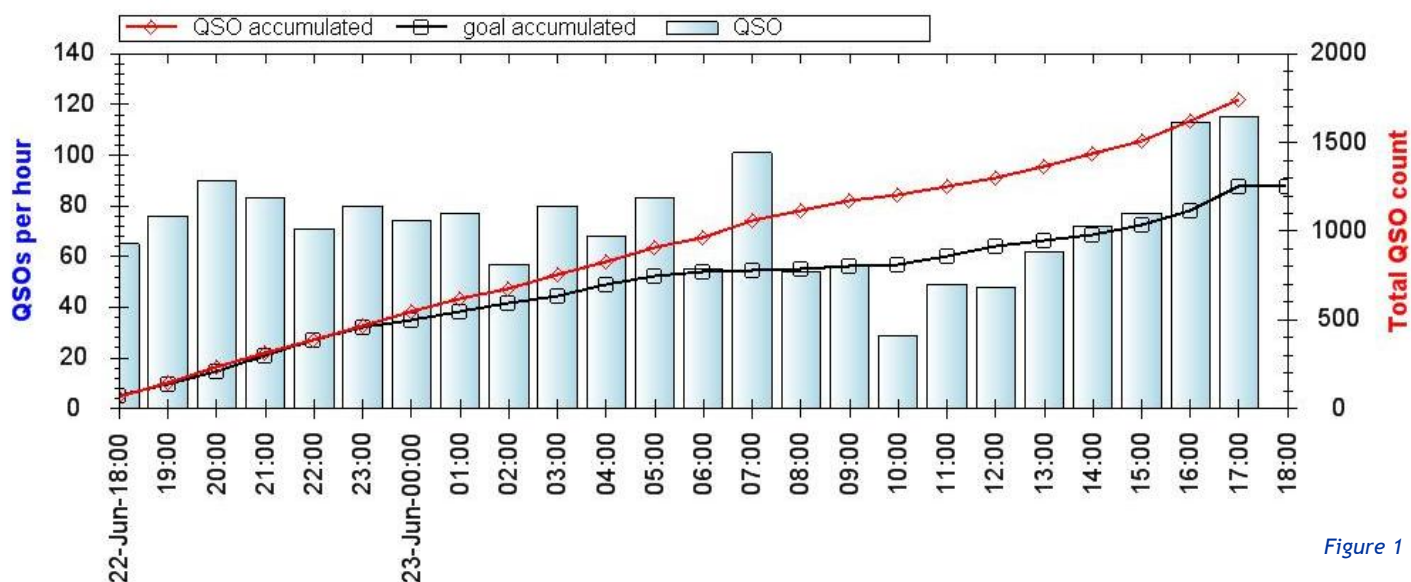


Figure 1

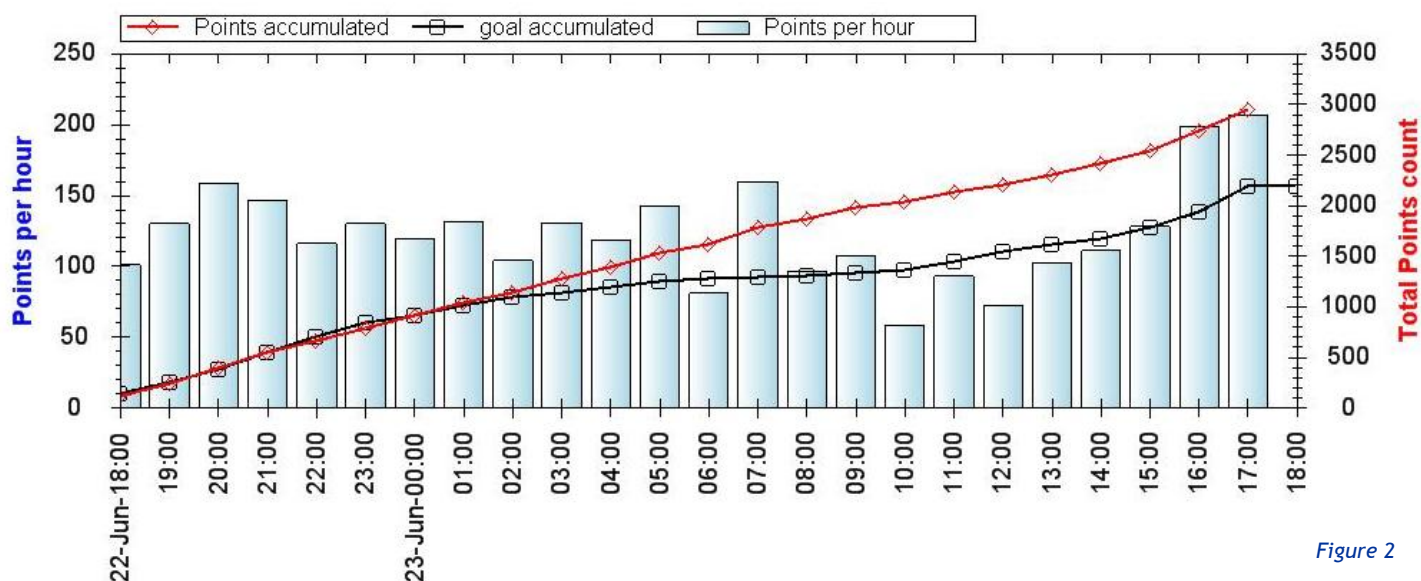


Figure 2

VE7SAR FD 2013 STATISTICS

Rate by Mode-Band

Date	Hour	Total	CW 14	CW 21	CW 3_5	CW 7	FM 144	LSB 3_5	LSB 7	RTTY 21	RTTY 3_5	RTTY 7	USB 14	USB 144	USB 21	USB 50	Running Total
6/22/2013	18	64	31	0	0	0	3	0	24	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
6/22/2013	19	74	45	0	0	0	2	0	16	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
6/22/2013	20	88	66	0	0	0	3	0	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	226
6/22/2013	21	80	56	0	0	0	2	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	306
6/22/2013	22	67	44	0	0	0	0	0	17	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	373
6/22/2013	23	78	45	0	0	0	0	0	21	7	0	0	0	1	0	4	451
6/23/2013	0	71	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	21	2	522
6/23/2013	1	76	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	598
6/23/2013	2	56	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	8	0	654
6/23/2013	3	77	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	23	0	731
6/23/2013	4	66	36	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	797
6/23/2013	5	80	50	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	877
6/23/2013	6	54	7	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	1	5	27	0	0	0	931
6/23/2013	7	101	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	5	0	42	0	0	0	1032
6/23/2013	8	54	0	0	1	36	0	0	0	0	5	0	12	0	0	0	1086
6/23/2013	9	55	0	0	11	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1141
6/23/2013	10	29	0	0	7	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1170
6/23/2013	11	48	0	0	8	35	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	1218
6/23/2013	12	47	23	0	0	2	0	19	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1265
6/23/2013	13	58	38	0	0	6	0	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1323
6/23/2013	14	68	43	0	0	0	0	4	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1391
6/23/2013	15	71	41	16	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1462
6/23/2013	16	108	43	48	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1570
6/23/2013	17	112	34	61	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1682
Total	All Hc	1682	796	125	27	210	10	63	176	45	13	46	90	1	73	7	0

This was a weak point this year as we had difficulty obtaining internet access to the spotting network. We've got to solve this problem for next year.

We did note that, in general, our signals were as good as those of other VE7 FD stations. A detailed comparison will be made to help planning for FD2014. We'll do the same for our prop predictions to see how valid they were.

GOTA

The Get On The Air station continues to be problematic when we have 3 regular HF op positions and only three (or fewer) bands that are any good at any one time. If the GOTA position is going to transmit, it will need to be on one of those three bands to have any reasonable assurance that there are contacts there to be made. To avoid possible damage to the radios one of the three main op positions will have to shut down while the GOTA station is OTA (sorry, couldn't resist it). This obviously will have an effect on our score.

As I see it, if we want to maximize our score we have two choices for GOTA.

1. Don't have a GOTA station. I personally don't like this choice as I think it's a good thing to have passers-by make a few contacts.
2. Find a way to have two radios on the same band (but different modes) at the same time without causing equipment damage or creating mutual QRM. It is clearly possible as numerous FD stations have more op positions than there are bands. Essentially it's a matter of antenna spacing and orientation and using radios designed for this kind of service.

GENERAL

Well, there's plenty more which could be said but I think these are the high points as far as operating is concerned. It's pretty clear that we're miles ahead of last year and, encouragingly, there's plenty of room for improvement.

Once again, without the considerable amount of hard work by everybody involved in planning, setting up and taking down, this really good achievement wouldn't have been possible so a big thank you to all involved.

~ 73, Jim Smith VE7FO

NOTES ON ATHENA

INTRODUCTION

Athena will plot graphs showing, on an hour by hour basis, QSO's, QSO Points, Multipliers and Total Score (Points X Mults). It will do this for individual bands and for all bands combined. It will show the contribution of each op. It will allow you to overlay last (or any other) year's hourly totals for comparison purposes.

INTERPRETING THE GRAPHS

The *horizontal axis* is UTC (GMT) date and time.

Vertical Bars

The vertical bars show how many of the item being plotted (such as QSOs) were made during each hour. There's a bit of a glitch here in that the vertical bars should all move to the right by 1/2 hour.

They can be made to show the contribution of each op during each hour.

Left Axis

The scale for the vertical bars.

Red Trend Line

Shows, for each hour, the accumulated total QSOs to date. The total is updated more frequently than this. In our case, we set it to update every two minutes

Black Trend Line

Athena can display the data from a previous contest as a black line. Like the Red line, it shows, for each hour, the accumulated total of the item being plotted for that previous contest. It's a great motivator as the ops can see how their current effort compares to the results for that contest.

Right Axis

The scale for the trend lines.

BACKGROUND

Athena is a nifty program which is great for real time op motivation as well as after the fact analysis of how you did on the various bands. Athena works only with N1MM. It reads the .mdb file on the fly. It does a great job of graphing rates and accumulated values of QSOs, Points, Mults and Mults x Points (each on their own graph) using info from the N1MM database along with hourly goals. It doesn't do anything else. It will display the graphs for all bands or for any individual band of one's choice. If you want, it will show the contribution of each op to the plotted rates for each hour. It also has the nifty feature of enabling you to set hourly goals for each of QSO'S, Mults and Points.

You can manually enter goals for each hour (although it isn't clear to me how one would do that) or you can import the hourly info from a previous year's contest and use that to generate the hourly goals for the present one (which is what we do). In this way you can see at any time how you're doing compared to the goals you've set. The goal values are plotted on the graph in black and the current contest values are plotted in red.

It will do all this in almost real time (2 minute delay if that's how you set the polling rate). In other words, you can see the various graphs while operating as well as the goals for that hour. But only on the computer running Athena.

To find out more about Athena Google PC5M Athena. Also look in the N1MM Manual.

~ 73, Jim VE7FO

How Did Field Day Start?

Steeped in tradition and mystery, today's Field Day evolved from humble beginnings in the Golden Age of Radio. Anything but stable, Field Day rules and practices have changed radically since the 1930s.

A one-column announcement in the June 1933 QST states that, for 27 hours starting the second Saturday in June at 4 PM local time (no daylight savings yet!), there would be an opportunity for "portables" to go into the field to contact as many stations as possible. Says F. E. Handy, W1BDI, in the announcement, "The real object of this contest is to test 'portables' wherever they may be available.... If successful, we want to make it an annual affair." To score the event, each QSO with fixed stations will count 1 point, contacts with other portables count 2 points, and DX contacts count 3 points. Multiply QSO points by the total number of ARRL sections, plus countries worked. No mention is made of a required exchange, which clearly must include an ARRL section!

Read the full text in a 1999 QST article available at URL:

<http://www.saraclub.net/Images/History%20of%20Field%20Day.pdf>



Some observations on Field Day...

A few things came to mind for next year:



1. Could we get local newspapers to run an article prior to Field Day? Maybe two weekend's prior to Field Day would be nice.
2. Invite Local newspapers to visit our Field Day site, and put up another article just after field day.

3. How about Radio, and TV stations? Would they come if we invite them?
4. The brochure we created for this field day was a good idea. I managed to post it on our office cafeteria, Guildford, and Fleetwood libraries. Since it was double sided, the library only posts one side. Next time we should create a separate poster so that we can post at our work place, community halls, libraries, and other public places where possible.

Answers to Brett's questions

1. Was it harder or easier than you thought? *Harder for sure.*
2. Did you find it exhausting, exhilarating, intimidating, etc.? *Exhausting was my answer though it was a fun activity. There was lots of stuff going on during shorter period of time so this is normal I guess.*

3. You all spent some time in the Operator Training Program, so you might offer your thoughts on how well that program prepared you for FD. You might have ideas on what in the Op Training Program could be changed in a helpful way.

The operator program was very useful. I didn't have much idea during last year's field day operation since it was my first. I was better prepared this year as a result of the excellent training program. It gave me confidence to operate on Field Day without any hesitation. I was trained at John's (VA7XB), and Fred's (VE7IO) stations and those stations were amazing, can't ask anything more. Instructors were very helpful and knowledgeable so sessions were enjoyable. Since I didn't have any HF gear or antennas during that time, the operator training program allowed me to get hands-on experience without spending any money. Everything is free, so what could go wrong? We should find a way to get more people involved in this great program.

4. Improvement? *The program is already good so I am not sure what to say. How about creating a video clip about the operator program so that we can show others what to expect during training? Would it help?*
5. Suggestions? *It would be nice to have a session about Field day antenna setup during our club meeting closer to field day. This should include: What types of antennas we are using, the reason for it, and go over band plan etc.*

~ Kapila VE7KGK





Field Day Acknowledgements

John Brodie VA7XB

A successful Field Day does not happen by accident or casual planning; it is the result of long and careful coordination, attention to detail and the assembly of a team dedicated to the objective. From the autumn of 2012 through to the last days before Field Day, the members of the core planning team (Brett VE7GM, John VA7XB, Kelvin VA7KPH, John VE7TI) met regularly to strategize and touch base on the many details to be attended to. Between meetings they worked to move the plan forward, recruiting and briefing volunteers, obtaining the necessary commitments from the City and the contributing companies and individuals who helped us, and the many, many other details that, together, made our Field Day possible.

But many other people played essential roles during the months leading up to the event.

Fred VE7IO, besides being a key member of the technical team, made the initial contact with ICOM that resulted in us having three contest-grade radios for our HF operations. Fred then undertook the challenging task of radio setup, trouble-shooting and final testing to ensure that the networking was functioning, the radios were communicating with the master computer and the individual modes all worked properly with the software.

Another key member of the technical team was Jim VE7FO who took on the tasks of documentation, N1MM orientation, propagation modeling, training Station Managers, operator scheduling, and compiling the final score submission along with Fred. This last job was a major one, and required close attention to detail and a firm understanding of the ARRL rules.

John VE7TI, besides being a member of the core planning group, assumed responsibility for erecting wire antennas, making the satellite contact, transporting the big tower to and from the site, and to preparing the FD video.

Kelvin VA7KPH spear-headed the SEPAR contributions, made contacts with the media and arranged for visitation of the elected MLA, Surrey Councillor and municipal officials including Surrey Fire, BC Ambulance and RCMP. He also organized the youth activity and public information effort and obtained official designation of Amateur Radio Week from Surrey Council.

SEPAR provided the radios for the GOTA and VHF station as well as the generators, and much of the coax used at Field Day.

Success in completing the SEPAR trailer (the new home of our GOTA station) was due to the efforts of Kjeld VE7GP and Fred VE7IO, who blitzed the final tasks of getting both HF and VHF/UHF operational in the trailer by the FD deadline.

John VA7XB, another member of the core planning group, prepared the site and antenna plans, arranged for the use of Grandview Heights school grounds, the donation of portable toilets, preparation of signage, and assisted with transportation. John also arranged for the welcome visit of SARC member Brian Watts VE7EWB and his XYL, Mayor Dianne Watts.

The role of satellites in amateur radio was the subject of an excellent display prepared by Ralph VA7UB and Nell VA7PE, who worked with John VE7TI and Jay VE7OFH to make the single satellite contact, despite difficult conditions.

The problem of Internet access was solved by Kapila VE7KKG using eComm's service; he was also instrumental in setting up the wireless LAN so that the individual N1MM logs could network with the master computer.

Drew VA7DRW came ready with climbing gear to align the BCWARN dish high up on the big tower (the BCWARN internet connection could not ultimately be made functional as a result of poor line-of-sight to other BCWARN antennas).

Participants enjoyed superb food and refreshments prepared by Joyce VA7JCE and Duncan VA7DCN, with serving assisted by Arthur VE7SIE and Nicole VE7PET, who took charge of the Salvation Army's mobile kitchen, used for the first time at our event.

Preparation and sending of messages to the traffic nets and the RAC Section Manager were undertaken by Peter VE7PGX using prepared messages, under difficult 80m conditions.

The GOTA station was ably managed by Jinty VA7JMR, coaching beginners and new amateurs on 2m and 6m,

bands where making contacts posed a real challenge because of limited activity.

A long-time club member recently back into amateur radio, Al VE7CDC, stepped up and made himself indispensable by volunteering for several tasks including transportation of the yellow tower and SEPAR trailer, providing ladders and a huge rain tarp, gas for the generators, and helping Jinty on the GOTA station. Al also managed a critical safety modification to the trailer carrying the yellow tower, work which was performed by Vancouver Axle & Frame.

A faithful regular at Field Day was Anton VE7SSD who worked behind the scenes to ensure inventory items were available for use including tables, tents, wire antennas and rope, helped with setup and take-down, assisted Jinty with the GOTA activities and contributed to the VHF and HF contacts.

Mike VE7ACN took on the job of assembling the TH7 tri-band beam on the big tower and getting it into the air (problems with the first TH7 required the job to be done twice). Mike is also our ace operator, working CW contacts at an amazing rate to push up our score.

Photography was a combined effort of Hiu VE7YXG, Anton VE7SSD, John VE7TI and Kapila VE7K GK.

We were fortunate to recruit Jenny VE7SUF, who acted as our Safety officer and came prepared to supervise those members holding first aid certification - fortunately first-aid was not needed.

We also have to thank Heinz VA7AQ, who not only provided site security Friday night (along with Arthur, Nicole and Anton), but lent us his 6 m beam with portable tower and was part of the HF SSB team.

Thanks are also due to the many other members who reached into their personal equipment inventories to provide other critical items (extension cords, bits of carpet, desk lamps, FRS radios, various adapters, computers, etc.) that made the difference between a fully functioning radio station and an almost functioning radio station.

Thanks go out to all the dignitaries who came out in support of our event: member Ron Casey VE7VTA in his red serge representing the RCMP, elected officials Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts and her husband/SARC member Brian Watts, Surrey Councillor and MLA Marvin Hunt, Deputy

Fire Chief of Emergency Planning Dan Barnscher, SARC member Gord Kirk VE7GRK of BC Ambulance Service and John McEwan, Director Divisional Emergency Disaster Services for the Salvation Army.

We could not have done it without our Corporate Sponsors and Supporters:

- SuperSave Group, who donated the use of portable toilets;
- Salvation Army, who provided the mobile kitchen;
- Vancouver Axle & Frame, who undertook extensive modifications to the yellow tower/trailer;
- Surrey Fire Services, who secured the site for us at no charge, and provided chairs and tables, and;
- ICOM Canada, who made available three top quality radios for our event.

And finally, appreciation to our operators who made the radio contacts: Rob VE7CZV, Garvin VA7YEE, Jinty VA7JMR, Anton VE7SSD, Mike VE7ACN, Fred VE7IO, Jim VE7FO, John VE7TI, Brett VE7GM, Sean VA7CHX, John VE7AXU, Kapila VE7K GK, Keenan VE7XEN, Kjeld VE7GP, Heinz VA7AQ, and John VA7XB.

The setup and takedown crew is too numerous to list individually, but we do want to especially thank those participants (especially Al Peterson VA7ALZ, Chris Cowx VA7CWX and Joe Zaccaria VE7TOL from Langley) and other visitors such as James Longley VE7JMS who just showed up and helped where needed. A big THANKYOU to these and many others, without whom this Field Day would not have been the best ever.

To conclude... here is the paragraph that Brett VE7GM modestly removed from the draft version: While the contributions of all members of the planning team are essential, it is the team leader that sets the standard and keeps the team focused. Credit for the leadership role goes to Brett VE7GM, who never lost his cool while raising the planning effort to a level never seen before. Not only was he the master planner, but he was responsible for acquiring the ICOM radios, providing solar power, contributing his personal equipment (computers and interface) and sharing in the operating duties. If we succeeded in our objective at this year's Field Day, it is Brett to whom we owe the most thanks.

~ John Brodie VA7XB

Don't forget...

Our regular meetings resume in September. We have a great new year of programs and events. In the meantime, please join us for coffee or a cold drink at McDonalds, on 72nd Avenue, just west of King George Boulevard on Wednesday, August 14 at 7pm for a summer social gathering.

Thanks for your Field Day support Icom!

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